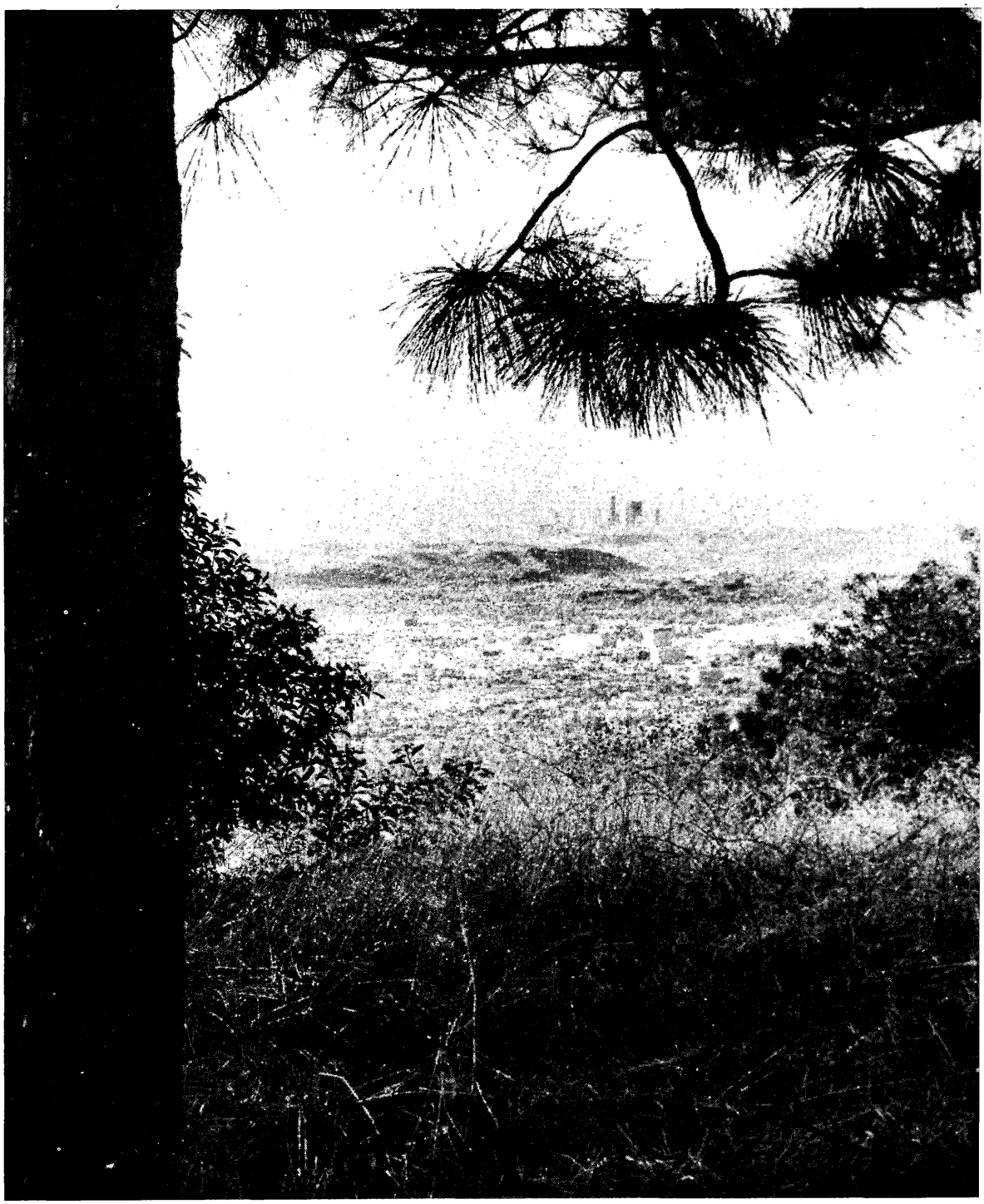
United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service
Pacific Southwest
Region

RECORD OF DECISION

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LANGELES NATIONAL FOREST
LAND AND RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN



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ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST

LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Los Angeles, Ventura, and San Bernardino Counties, California

1987

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RECORD OF DECISION
U.S.D.A. FOREST SERVICE

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST
LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Los Angeles, Ventura, and San Bernardino Counties, California

Over the past six years, the Forest Service has completed a detailed planning process for the Angeles National Forest. This process included studies of the lands, resources, and social and economic interests for the Angeles National Forest. The planning process included detailed analysis of seven different management alternatives. These alternatives are analyzed and disclosed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (the FEIS) for the Angeles National Forest's Land and Resources Management Plan (the Plan). This record of decision documents my selection and approval of a modified Alternative PREF. The modified Alternative PREF is described in detail in the Plan.

I. THE DECISION

My decision is to select a modified Alternative PREF to manage the 651,874 acres of federal land administered by the Angeles National Forest. This includes 613,183 acres of Angeles National Forest land, 5,559 acres of Los Padres National Forest and 4,842 acres of San Bernardino National Forest. There are 6,837 acres of Angeles National Forest land administered by the Los Padres National Forest which are not covered by this Plan or EIS. The 17,045 acres within the San Dimas Experimental Forest, including the 1,460 acre Fern Canyon Research Natural Area, will be managed for research in cooperation with the Pacific Southwest Forest Experiment Station, and are not covered by the Plan.

I am approving the Angeles National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan which provides the direction and information necessary to achieve the goals and objectives of modified Alternative PREF during the next 10-15 years. The Plan provides for the integrated multiple-use management of outdoor recreation, wildlife, fish, watershed, forage, cultural resources, minerals, vegetation age-class diversity, fire prevention and suppression, and wilderness. The Plan will result in sustained yields of goods and services for the benefit of the American people.

Management of the Angeles National Forest presents unusual management situations in comparison with most other National Forests. The Forest is surrounded by one of the largest metropolitan areas in the Nation; over eight million people live in the vicinity of the Forest. The diverse ethnic mix and extensive demand for various traditional recreation uses (camping, hiking, driving for pleasure, picnicking) and non-traditional recreation uses (target shooting areas, moto-cross racetracks, off road vehicle play areas) further complicates the management of this important national area. The comments on the Proposed Plan show that the public views the Angeles National Forest as a refuge from the sea of urbanization which surrounds it. The Forest will be managed to protect and enhance riparian areas, wildlife habitat, watersheds, and other resources while

providing many outdoor recreation opportunities for people in the adjacent urban area. The Forest will use prescribed fire as the primary vegetation management tool along with managed and limited grazing along existing fuelbreaks. Timber will be managed for recreation benefits using limited and small fuelwood sales (usually permits to individuals) to remove hazard trees and to enhance stand vigor and protection.

In making my decision I have reviewed the environmental consequences of the Plan and the alternatives which are disclosed in the FEIS. I gave particular attention to public comments on the DEIS presented in Appendix F of the FEIS. I have also reviewed the public issues and management concerns identified during the scoping process for this Plan (Chapter I, FEIS). Alternative PREF, shown in the DEIS, underwent modifications as a result of public comment analysis. Those changes are reflected in the FEIS for modified Alternative PREF as well as in the final Forest Plan.

The EIS and Plan were developed under the implementing regulations of the National Forest Management Act (NFMA), Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 219 (36 CFR 219) published in 47 CFR 43026 on September 30, 1982. The planning actions described in 36 CFR 219.12(b) through (k) have been completed and are properly documented. Also followed were the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations, Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 1500-1508 (40 CFR 1500-1508). In addition, the Plan preparation reflects the Regional Guide for the Pacific Southwest Region as well as many other laws and regulations.

The major components of the Plan are:

1. Identification of the Desired Future Condition of the Forest.

2. Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines.

3. Management Areas and Prescriptions for the Forest.

4. Monitoring and Evaluation Requirements.

5. Appendices

As provided in 36 CFR 219.10, this decision will remain in effect until the Plan is revised, which is expected to be in 10-15 years. Opportunities, problems, or conflicts may arise in managing the Forest that were not anticipated in the Plan. When this occurs, the Plan can be adjusted through amendments or revision. (36 CFR 219.12)

The Plan and FEIS are programmatic. The Plan does not emphasize site-specific decisions. Rather, it provides overall guidance and establishes management direction to govern future actions. Project plans will be tiered to this FEIS, and will address specific environmental effects.

Full implementation of the plan includes scheduled production of goods and services, implementation of mitigation measures, and monitoring activities. A 9% increase in budget over the 1982 base year amount of $21.5 million, or $23.7

million, is needed to fully implement the Plan. This is a 32% increase over the 1986 budget of $16.0 million. The increase is due to the Plan's expansion of the capital investment programs on the Forest in order to meet current and projected user demands for construction and reconstruction of such items as campgrounds, picnic areas, equestrian and hiking trails; and new and expanded programs for off road vehicle trails, long term wildlife habitat programs, and long range vegetative treatment programs. The Plan actually calls for a reduction in operation and maintenance costs from $19.0 million in 1982 to an average of $17.4 million. The reduction can occur due to the capital investment program which will reduce operations costs over time by updating or replacing costly facilities.

Actual annual budgets will affect the rate of implementation of the Plan and the amount of goods and services produced in any given year but should not affect overall goals and direction. If the Forest Service determines that overall goals and direction of the proposed plan cannot be achieved, and that environmental objectives could be adversely affected because annual budgets differ from required budgets, the Plan can be revised or amended. This can only be determined as the Plan is implemented and monitored. (see page 15)

Some of the specific, major provisions of this Plan and my decision are:

- The equestrian and hiking trail system will increase from 511 miles to 623 miles through construction and reconstruction. The Pacific Crest Trail will be completed. Mountain bicycles are recognized as a possible use of equestrian and hiking trails with the exception of the Pacific Crest Trail and wilderness trails. Trails may be closed to mountain bicycles on a case-by-case basis if user safety or resource conflicts occur. Off road vehicles will be prohibited from all equestrian and hiking trails.

- Off road vehicle trail use will be restricted to designated trails throughout the Forest. Designated off road vehicle trails will increase from 40 miles to 364 miles. Open areas for off road vehicle use will be at Rowher Flat, Littlerock, and San Gabriel decreasing the amount of area available to unrestricted off road vehicle use from 240,000 acres to 265 acres. The off road vehicle trail system will include tie-ins with the State Off Highway Vehicle System, increased loop trails, and designated low maintenance roads (level 2 roads).

- Fourteen target shooting areas, totalling 5,128 acres, will be provided throughout the Forest to reduce conflicts with other users, promote a feeling of safety for all forest users, provide better opportunities for target shooting area management, and reduce adverse environmental impacts. Approximately 53,000 acres of outlying secondary zones and two core areas will be eliminated because they are unsafe, conflict with other uses, or cannot be properly monitored or maintained.

- Developed recreation will include new construction, rehabilitation and expansion of existing facilities in the "low country" and "high country". Developments will include picnic areas, trail camps, and vistas along major travel routes. Development of Pyramid Lake will continue under a cooperative agreement with the State. It will include beaches, boating facilities and day use areas.

- Existing ski areas will be allowed to expand from 1,005 acres to 2,465 acres. New operations or areas will not be permitted. The lands available for downhill skiing will be used to maximize skiing use, and not for overnight lodging facilities.

- Riparian area conditions will improve considerably through implementation of standards and guidelines that protect and strengthen management of riparian areas. Management activities can occur in riparian areas, but the activities must be compatible with the needs of the riparian dependent resources, and any conflicts must be mitigated in favor of the riparian dependent resources.

- Vegetation diversity in chaparral plant communities will increase through the use of prescribed fire to create varying age-classes. Diversity will be maintained or enhanced in the oak woodland, conifer, and pinyon/juniper community types through various silvicultural practices.

- Wildlife habitat will improve due to increased vegetation diversity and increased protection of riparian areas. Fish habitat will also improve because of reduced siltation from watershed damage by wildfire, and because of increased protection of riparian areas. Specifically, habitat capability is predicted to increase for bighorn sheep, mule deer, riparian birds, chaparral birds, rainbow trout, and the native fish. Habitat capability should remain constant for the spotted owl, oak/conifer birds, and the pinyon/juniper birds. Viable populations of all native vertebrate species will be maintained. Threatened and endangered species will be managed to meet recovery plan objectives. Sensitive plant and animal species will be managed to ensure that species do not become listed as threatened or endangered due to management activities.

- Vegetation diversity in chaparral plant communities will increase through the use of prescribed fire to create varying age-classes. Diversity will be maintained or enhanced in the oak woodland, conifer, and pinyon/juniper community types through various silvicultural practices.

- Fire management activities will shift over the next 10-20 years from a reactive firefighting role to a pro-active prescribed fire program. This will reduce off Forest sedimentation and risks of fire losses. Prescribed fire will be the primary tool. Vegetation will be treated to support a variety of resources, including livestock forage, wildlife and water yield. No significant change in the kinds and amount of equipment or people is expected, nor will the level of public property protection go down. The total fire and vegetative management program will increase 22% above 1982 levels. The vegetative management program will treat an average of 19,500 acres per year.

- Livestock grazing on the Forest will increase from 5,000 AUMs to 10,000 - 15,000 AUMs. Livestock will be used to manage vegetation. Sheep will graze the major fuelbreaks on the west end of the Forest and will be used to slow shrub regrowth on selected prescribed fire and wildfire areas. Domestic livestock grazing, outside the need for fuel reduction and/or vegetative management, will be considered only if such use is compatible with other management objectives.

- Wildernesses comprise 81,718 acres, or 13% of the Forest. Prescription 9 provides the direction for the three Wildernesses, San Gabriel, Sheep Mountain, and Cucamonga Wilderness Addition. Operation and maintenance plans will be written for each wilderness.

- The Arroyo Seco Further Planning Area is not recommended for wilderness designation.

- The Forest has one proposed Research Natural Area, Falls Canyon consisting of 1,030 acres which will be managed as described in management Prescription 11. The existing Fern Canyon RNA of 1,460 acres is within the San Dimas Experimental Forest, and will be managed for research in cooperation with the Pacific Southwest Forest Experiment Station.

- The Forest has three special interest areas, Mt. Baden Powell and Mt. San Antonio, botanical areas, and Devil's Punchbowl, a geologic area. Establishment reports will be prepared confirming the precise boundaries. Management direction is contained in Prescription 12.

- The prescribed fire program is expected to increase total Forest water yield by 5% during the next 15 years. Water quality will be enhanced indirectly as wildfires become fewer and smaller. Sediment production is expected to decline approximately 2% below the current estimated sediment yield.

- Fuelwood production is expected to remain at about 2,300 cords per year during the first decade. Fuelwood production will continue to be a by-product of forest silvicultural and other vegetative treatment activities. Trees will be cut only to protect the natural ecosystems, amenity values, or out of safety considerations.

- The Forest will use the 12 existing utility corridors for electric transmission lines, oil pipelines, natural gas pipelines, aqueducts, and the I-5 transportation corridor. No new corridors are proposed.

- Special Use Permits will be issued for non-recreational uses only if the use cannot be reasonably placed on private lands and if the use does not negate the management objectives for the area.

- Production and income from leasable and saleable minerals is anticipated. Mineral leasing and sales will be allowed over much of the Forest, but not within wilderness or other special areas. The amount of land open to mineral development will remain constant until study and environmental analysis of the withdrawals is completed.

- The 12.5 miles section of Piru Creek that is a candidate for Wild and Scenic River status will be evaluated by the Los Padres National Forest which administers that portion of the Angeles National Forest.

II. ISSUES AND ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

ISSUES

To determine the issues, concerns, and opportunities for the Forest Plans all forests in the Pacific Southwest Region conducted their public scoping between October 1979, and January 1980. Local news releases and a paid advertisement in the Los Angeles Times describing the planning process and announcing six public meetings concerning planning on the Angeles National Forest were used to notify the local public of the development of the Plan. Further, letters to the 2,000 groups, individuals, and agencies on the Forest mailing list were sent out. Additional public meetings were held throughout the State and comments were received from individuals, organizations, and governmental agencies. These public issues and management concerns helped define the scope of the EIS (40 CFR 1501.7 and 1508.25).

On the Angeles, similar public issues and management concerns were grouped. From these groupings, 30 issues were developed. The issues included:

chaparral management
cultural resources
dark sky observation
electronic sites and utility corridors
energy conservation and production
fuelwood
grazing/range management
information programs
land acquisition and disposal
long term productivity, restoration, and protection of soils
management of the numbers of forest users
mineral and energy development
non-native plant species use
off road vehicles
recreation involving commercial resorts and hunting
recreational residences
riparian zone management
sanitary landfills, sediment placement sites (rock and debris sites)
scenic quality
skiing (downhill, cross country, and snowplay)
special areas such as wildlife refuges, sanctuaries, preserves, & RNA's
target shooting
timber management
transportation system
transplanting of sensitive non-game species
trails for hiking, equestrian, and bicycles
water quality and quantity
wildlife and plant diversity
wilderness area management
wilderness acres (amount)

As a result of public comment on the Proposed Plan and DEIS wind energy generation was added to the energy conservation and production issue above, and the following two issues were added to the EIS:

- What is the role of the Forest in providing visitors with a feeling of safety from crime, drug and alcohol abuse, pollution, litter, vandalism and other law enforcement problems?

- What is the role of the Forest in providing opportunities for peace and quiet, a refuge from urban developments and noise in a natural undisturbed setting?

The complete listing of issues can be found in Chapter 2 of the Plan and Chapter 1 of the FEIS. A more detailed discussion of Planning Issues can be found in the FEIS Appendix A. Table 2-20 in the FEIS displays how each issue is addressed by each alternative.

Section III of this Record of Decision discusses the main public comments received on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The Plan was revised as a result of public comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed Plan.

ALTERNATIVES

The alternatives were developed in response to the major public issues. Information about the alternative formulation process is summarized in the FEIS, pages 2-1 through 2-4.

The public did not suggest any new alternatives and did not comment on the range of alternatives. The six alternatives to the Preferred Alternative, did not change between the DEIS and FEIS.

A brief description of the seven alternatives considered in detail follow. For a complete description of the alternatives and the associated environmental consequences see Chapters 2 and 4 of the FEIS.

Preferred Alternative (PREF)

The Preferred Alternative increases production of goods and services in order to achieve a balance between commodity and amenity outputs.

Current Alternative (CURR)

The CURR alternative portrays the continuation of current policies, directions, and practices into the future.

1980 RPA Alternative (RPA)

The RPA alternative emphasizes both commodity and amenity values to meet 1980 RPA (Resource Planning Act) targets as assigned by the Regional Guide. RPA targets would be met or exceeded to the extent resource capabilities allow.

High Productivity Alternative (HIPRO)

The HIPRO maximizes production of both resource products such as water, wood, grazing, and minerals; and recreation uses such as hunting, off road vehicles, target shooting, and camping. Maximum production of goods and

services, subject to economic efficiency, will occur on acres outside of wilderness.

Low Budget Alternative (LOW$)

The LOW$ alternative emphasizes fire activities and protection of natural resources. Approximately 60% of the recreation demand will be met with reduced services. Some developed recreation facilities will be closed. More emphasis will be placed on private sector developments and private sector operation of Forest Service facilities.

High Market Alternative (HIMKT)

The HIMKT alternative would emphasize programs and projects which would produce the highest financial return to the economy (examples are increased grazing and developed recreation use).

Amenities Alternative (AMEN)

The AMEN alternative would emphasize programs which maximize high levels of fish and wildlife habitat, dispersed recreation activities, and a wilderness addition. Resource development could occur at economically efficient levels if production did not conflict with non-market outputs.

In response to public comments and concerns, the PREF alternative was modified. Management Area Prescriptions were rewritten and combined from 22 to 12 in order to reduce redundancy. This makes them more understandable, and easier to apply (also see the revised Management Area Map). Several of the standards and guidelines were revised to reflect suggestions from the public and Forest staff. In all cases, the changes in the Plan's standards and guidelines reflect more environmental protection in response to the public input than was previously addressed. The goals of the alternatives remained the same. More detail on the changes made and areas of major comment are in Appendix F of the FEIS.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Angeles National Forest conducted an active public involvement program. Federal, state, and local agencies were informed and consulted throughout the planning effort. Forest users had an opportunity to participate. See FEIS Appendix F, "Consultation with Others".

The Forest published a Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS for the Plan in the Federal Register on October 25, 1979. At that time initial public meetings were held and the Forest began developing a mailing list of individuals, agencies, industry, and other civic, service, and user groups who where interested in participating in the planning process. This list has grown from approximately 2,000 in 1980, to over 5,500 in 1986. The information gathered during the 1979-1980 public scoping period was used to develop the issues, concerns, and opportunities on which the DEIS and proposed Plan was based.

A Notice of Availability of the DEIS and proposed Plan was published in the Federal Register on May 21, 1985, and announced by area news media. Further, newsletters announcing availability of the documents were sent to those on the

Forest Mailing List. The Forest placed posters announcing the availability of the documents, public meetings schedules, and need for public comments in campgrounds, picnic areas, and other high use recreation areas on the Forest as well as at local resorts and businesses throughout the Forest. Over 1900 copies of the proposed Plan and DEIS were distributed to the public. Review copies were also placed in over 20 libraries in communities adjacent to the Forest and in all Forest Offices.

The Forest conducted 14 open houses and presented programs at 41 meetings held by other groups and individuals. These included the Los Angeles County Planning Commission, the Duarte City Council, and meetings with representatives of Federal and State Legislators. These meetings were held during the 122 day comment period which ended September 20, 1985. Over 3,260 individuals and federal, state, and local agencies commented on the proposed Plan and DEIS. The Forest responded to 7,103 comments generated by public participation. All comments were considered in the preparation of the final document and selection of the modified Alternative PREF as the Plan.

The Forest staff continued to meet with various groups and individuals after the close of the comment period in order to clarify and understand the comments. The joint meetings were held with representatives from the California Department of Fish and Game, Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation Department, Los Angeles Department of Public Works, National Rifle Association, Sierra Club, Off Road Vehicle user groups, the Skiing Industry, and others, and resulted in all parties getting a better understanding of the intent of the comments submitted and the options for the Forest Service.

III. REASONS FOR THE DECISION

This section describes the basis for my decision in selecting the modified alternative PREF as the Plan. No single factor determined the decision. Many factors were considered, including costs and benefits, land capability, protection of the basic resources, public comments, and advice and suggestions from other agencies, organizations, and experienced Forest officers. The Plan sets a course that I believe results in the greatest overall long-term benefit to the public, blending local, state and national interests.

RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public participation process was very helpful in making my decision. It showed areas of confusion, disagreements, and also those portions of the Plan the public accepted. The comments suggested corrections that could be made to the document, concerns that needed better explanation, and major issues to be addressed.

The Forest received many comments from different people, groups, and agencies. The summarized comments and responses can be found in Appendix F of the FEIS. Sometimes comments from one reviewer conflicted with comments from another. In such cases, the decision will not satisfy everyone. How the selected Plan responds to the key concerns which surfaced during the public comment period is discussed below.

Off Road Vehicles

The public concentrated on six off road vehicle issues in their comments on the proposed Plan.

- The first was the amount of off road vehicle facilities which should be on the Forest. Some felt the Plan was good, others felt there was either too much or too little off road vehicle opportunity.

- The second issue dealt with the location of off road vehicle trails in former RARE II areas, with specific reference to Fish Canyon, Pleasant View, Strawberry Peak, and Arroyo Seco. The comments concentrated on the issue that these areas should remain unroaded.

- The third issue came from area residents who did not want the Van Tassel Truck trail open to off road vehicle use and did not want to have an open area and trail system at Mill Canyon.

- The fourth issue came from user groups and those who wanted limitations on off road vehicle use. Both wanted to see each off road vehicle trail, and level 2 roads open to off road vehicle use shown on a map. The user groups wanted to insure a complete system was being developed and non-users wanted to minimize adverse environmental impacts and conflicts with other uses.

- The fifth issue developed from concerns by non-users who felt increased off road vehicle use would cause adverse impacts to fish and wildlife.

- Finally, one issue surfaced that had not been raised before the public comment period. Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation Department and several individuals requested a moto-cross site (graded and managed closed track for off road vehicle racing) on the Forest.

Southern California has one of the largest populations of off road vehicle recreationists in the country. This population creates strong pressure for off road vehicle facilities on the Forest. Pre-existing and competing uses, as well as terrain, limit the Forest's ability to meet the demand for off road vehicle use. The Forest reexamined the proposed trail system and open areas based on public comments.

Changes in Alternative PREF from the Draft to the Final include: open areas were reduced from 870 acres to 265 acres in three open areas instead of four; trail mileage was reduced from 581 miles to 364 miles; motorized access was removed from the Fish Canyon, Strawberry and Pleasant View Areas; the State Off Highway Vehicle route is included in the off road vehicle trail system; no equestrian and hiking trails were converted to off road vehicle trails and no dual use of equestrian and hiking trails by off road vehicles is permitted. The chosen off road vehicle system increases off road vehicle opportunities while reducing conflicts with other users and riparian areas.

A route from the City of Duarte along the Van Tassel Truck Trail to the Red Box Rincon Road was unacceptable because the lower portion of the Truck Trail passes through private land, and access to the trailhead is through a residential community.

The proposed Mill Canyon Off Road Vehicle Area was changed from a 2,000 acre area that included 50 open acres and 25 miles of trail, to an area with a smaller trail system that is a connecting link for the cross-forest trail system. There will be no open area in Mill Canyon. The original Mill Canyon proposal in the DEIS was determined unsuitable for several reasons: access to the site was through portions of private land on a single lane dirt road; the use would occur near a residential development and major equestrian center; and concentrating heavy use in such a small area raised health and safety concerns.

In response to public comment, the off road vehicle map was changed to show existing and proposed off road vehicle routes, Forest Service level 2 roads open to off road vehicle use, and the 3 open areas. This map also includes the equestrian and hiking trails, target shooting areas, and ski areas.

The changes made between the Draft and the Final EIS and Plan were made in response to public comments which suggested a more intensively managed off road vehicle system which provides user satisfaction while maintaining areas of solitude, and reduces potential impacts and conflicts with other users and wildlife. The Plan does this through restricting most use to designated trails, restrictions on trails in riparian areas, and maintaining areas of non-motorized multiple use.

Currently, Forest Service policy does not allow moto-cross sites on national forest land. If a private concessionaire applies for a special use permit an exception to this policy would have to be obtained from the Chief of the Forest Service. There also must be full consideration of placement on private lands, and completion of an environmental analysis with full public involvement.

Target Shooting

Some of the public suggested closing or limiting all target shooting areas on the Forest, while others wanted target shooting areas left open. Prior to November 1981, the Angeles was open to the discharge of firearms except along heavily traveled roads, developed sites, or nearby heavily used areas. In November 1981, a Forest order restricted target shooting to 16 areas with a total of 58,000 acres. In the DEIS, Alternative PREF reduced the acreage to 48,000 acres and 14 sites with "core areas" and secondary outlying areas. Alternative PREF changed from the DEIS to the FEIS by eliminating the outlying areas, and retaining the core areas for 14 designated target shooting areas (3 of the designated areas will only be opened under commercial operation) for a total of 5,128 acres. The change in the selected alternative increases the quality management in target shooting areas, reduces conflicts with other uses and users, and reduces the adverse environmental impacts of target shooting. Target shooting is eliminated from wildlife habitat emphasis areas, with the exception of Rock Shooting Area, which will be allowed only under strict conditions, as specified in Management Prescription 1.

Equestrian and Hiking Trails

Those interested in equestrian and hiking use of Forest trails commented they felt the Forest was abandoning their use in favor of other uses such as off road vehicles and target shooting. They felt such uses of the National Forest threatened their safety and enjoyment of the Forest.

The Plan separates the off road vehicles and equestrian and hiking users and maintains and expands the equestrian and hiking trail system on the Forest. The FEIS and Plan include a map showing all users that their activity is provided for while limiting conflicts with other users and resources. Mountain bicycles are recognized as a possible use of the equestrian and hiking trail system, however their use will be considered on a case-by-case basis for user safety and resource reasons. Mountain bicycles are excluded from the PCT and wilderness.

Riparian Area Management

Most of the public input received on riparian areas related to conflicting uses or the need for increased protection and enhancement. Mining and off road vehicle interests were concerned that riparian standards and guidelines were developed to keep them out of the Forest. Other publics were concerned that over-development, including off road vehicle use, range, mining, sanitary landfills, sediment placement sites, and concentrated public use would destroy the "most valuable habitat area".

In response to public input, the Forest's interdisciplinary team strengthened riparian standards and guidelines by insuring all projects and programs in riparian areas result in no net loss of current riparian area. For mining operations within riparian zones, the plan of operation must specifically require minimizing damage to the riparian zone and mitigating damage that does occur by requiring all reasonable actions and timing with the objective of no net loss of riparian acreage. Off road vehicle staging areas and new off road vehicle trails will be located outside riparian areas. Existing off road vehicle trails within riparian areas will be relocated outside these sensitive areas except at designated and controlled crossings. Resource conflicts must be mitigated in favor of the dependent resources. Standards and guidelines for the protection of riparian zones have been written specifically for grazing, sediment placement sites, fire suppression, fish and wildlife, road construction and streamside protection. These are listed in Chapter 2 of the FEIS and in the Plan on pages 4-54 to 4-58.

In addition to the NFMA requirement to protect land and vegetation approximately 100 feet from the edges of perennial streams, lakes, and other bodies of water, the Forest added intermittent streams. A map depicting the current riparian zone inventory has been included in the FEIS and Plan.

Fish and Wildlife

The Forest Service has the responsibility for managing wildlife habitats; the California Department of Fish and Game has primary responsibility for the animals.

Many of the public comments urged a greater emphasis on fish and wildlife management. They also focused on the lack of adequate baseline data for fish and wildlife, and inadequate funding levels to implement monitoring plans.

As discussed in the FEIS and Plan, vegetation manipulation using prescribed fire as the primary tool will enhance wildlife habitat for a variety of wildlife species. Forest-wide plant and animal diversity will increase by creating a

mosaic of age classes within chaparral vegetation types. All vegetation types will be managed to maintain viable populations of native vertebrate species.

Since 70% of the Forest's wildlife species utilize riparian areas, riparian standards and guidelines have been strengthened for riparian dependent wildlife.

Numerous laws and regulations guide monitoring activities of State and Federal agencies. The major law that drives the Forest planning process, including monitoring, is NFMA. NFMA states that population trends of management indicator species (MIS) will be monitored, and relationships to habitat changes determined.

Monitoring activities and costs have been revised and clarified in the Plan. In addition, when funding specific projects, monitoring costs will be included in the project costs. Project costs plus ongoing administrative costs are included in the annual budget, and that process is further explained in Appendix G.

Skiing (Alpine and Cross-country)

Some respondents supported, and some opposed, ski area expansion. Those individuals who live in the Wrightwood area were concerned about the effects of ski area expansion on the community's watertable, as well as the increased problems of traffic through the community. Public comments requested, and opposed the addition of overnight accommodations at ski areas. Another issue was ski area expansion adjacent to wilderness. Finally, an issue that was not discussed extensively in the Proposed Plan or DEIS was the need for more cross-country skiing.

To meet the need for additional lands for downhill skiing, the Forest Plan allows existing ski areas to expand from 1,005 acres to 2,465 acres. Prior to the expansion of existing areas a site specific environmental analysis must be completed to insure proper mitigating measures are included and made part of development plans. As a minimum, the effects of expansion on traffic, on the Wrightwood community watertable, and night skiing effects on the observatory near Wrightwood must be studied. New development in any ski area must make provisions for mitigation of displaced uses (e.g. re-establish or relocate trails, snowplay areas, cross-country ski trails, etc.).

The Forest Service policy to avoid overnight accommodations at ski areas where private land and facilities are available is continued since overnight accommodations can be found or developed in Wrightwood, the ski areas are within close proximity to the LA Basin, and the limited land available is needed for skiing, parking, and other outdoor recreational activities.

To provide increased cross-country ski experiences, trails will be signed along roads and hiking trails. Additional experiences could be provided by concessionaires.

The Angeles will continue to participate in the State's Sno-Park program. The objective of this program is to provide more dispersed snowplay areas, with cleared parking areas off the highway right-of-way.

Range

The range program on the Angeles National Forest is used only as a method to help slow shrub regrowth on existing fuelbreaks, selected prescribed fires, and wildfire areas. The small range program is only used as a tool to meet vegetation management objectives; it does not support adjacent ranch production needs.

Public comment on this issue questioned the amount of proposed increase in the grazing program. Concern was expressed about potential grazing conflicts with riparian area values, bighorn sheep and their habitat, pinyon/juniper and oak woodland types. There was also concern about the apparent lack of relationship among vegetation management, natural fuels management, and range management objectives.

In response to public comment, the Forest examined the presentation of the proposed range program. The vegetation, fire, and range management sections of the FEIS and Plan have been revised to tie and limit the livestock program to the needs of fire and vegetation management. The increase in grazing will meet the vegetation management objectives of the Forest.

The range standards and guidelines have been expanded and strengthened in several areas to reflect public concerns. Range standards and guidelines will allow no domestic sheep within 5 air miles of bighorn sheep habitat. Sheep will be the preferred livestock for fuel reduction and vegetation management. The riparian standards and guidelines insure forage from riparian areas will not be included in determining grazing capacity for livestock. This will insure livestock grazing will be well below the capacity of the area and reduce the risk of grazing impacts. Further all management activity, including range, must insure adequate mitigating measures to protect riparian dependent resources. Prescriptions for Pinyon/Juniper and Oak Woodland have also been revised to eliminate range emphasis in these important wildlife areas.

Sanitary Landfills and Sediment Placement Sites

The Los Angeles County Sanitary District suggested using National Forest lands for sanitary landfills. They supplied numerous reasons for supporting this use and for reducing restrictions on landfills. Most organizations and individuals opposed even considering the use of National Forest lands for sanitary landfills.

The criteria for sanitary landfills on National Forest land were changed in the Final Plan. Forest land for Class II (household and non-hazardous waste) and Class III (vegetation, inert materials, construction materials) solid waste disposal sites will be considered for exchange to an appropriate agency or organization if it meets land exchange and solid waste disposal conditions set forth in the plan. Class I sites (Hazardous waste sites) will not be permitted in the Forest, and exchanges for Class I sites will not be considered.

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Works requested that sediment placement sites be separated from sanitary landfills and that eleven specific sites be considered for future use. In response to the public input, the Forest has separated the sediment placement sites from the sanitary landfills. The standards and guidelines have been adjusted to recognize the difference between

the two uses. Eleven sites for sediment placement have been identified and standards and guidelines require site-specific environmental analysis with full public involvement prior to their use. No new or different sites will be considered during the first decade or until the Plan is revised or amended.

Monitoring and Data Acquisition

The public commented the monitoring plan lacks adequate funding. They were also concerned the Forest would proceed with long-range resource programs before collecting adequate baseline data on fish, wildlife, and sensitive plants. They felt these data were necessary to assess impacts prior to approval of the Forest Plan.

These concerns have been built into the Plan and FEIS by adding standards and guidelines, and prescription provisions, to provide necessary protection until the baseline data can be collected. The Monitoring Plan, which has been revised for clarity, describes the data acquisition needs and provides a schedule for data collection. Monitoring will provide the Forest and the public with the necessary feedback to determine if predictions are correct and indicate when change is needed. Mitigation and monitoring activities are an integral part of the implementation of any project. Funds for mitigation and monitoring are included in project planning and budgeting, and projects will not be implemented without adequate funding for monitoring and mitigation.

Budget and Plan Implementation

The public comments showed a concern the proposed budget exceeded what the Forest Service could expect to receive, in light of large federal deficits and increasing efforts to cut federal spending. The public questioned the Forest's ability to implement the Preferred Alternative based on expected budget and manpower levels. Further, the public questioned the ability of the Forest to implement the mitigation actions that are part of plan implementation. The question is how do substantially lower budgets affect resource programs and their priorities?

In response to public comment, the Forest has added to the FEIS Appendix G - Budgets and Their Relationship to Forest Plans. This Appendix provides an overview of the Federal Government's budgeting process. It also provides an explanation of how the Forest Plan will be used to formulate budget requests. Should Congress continue to fund individual resource programs as they have in the past, the Forest may adjust output levels and priorities.

Appendix G also provides information on the importance of cooperative projects and funding and the contributions of volunteers to program accomplishments. Further, implementing the Administration's policy of having users pay fees, commensurate with the cost or value of the service provided, is also discussed as a means of making up budget shortfalls.

Regardless of annual budget levels, Management will not relax requirements specified in the Minimum Management Requirements, Minimum Implementation Requirements, and Standards and Guidelines established by the Forest Plan. (Please refer to Appendix G of the FEIS.) Under NEPA, an Environmental Analysis (EA) is completed for every project that affects natural resources. If the EA

shows the project cannot be accomplished without violating the management requirements listed above, projects will be modified or revised to ensure meeting these Standards and Guidelines.

Wilderness

The California Wilderness Act of September 1984, designated the Sheep Mountain area and the Cucamonga addition as wilderness. The Forest Service study of wilderness on the Angeles National Forest was limited to recommendations concerning the Arroyo Seco Further Study Area. All former roadless areas not formally designated wilderness in the Act were released for non-wilderness management. Many respondents to the DEIS did not understand this and requested many or all of the former RARE II areas be designated wilderness.

The Arroyo Seco Study Area does not possess desirable characteristics for wilderness designation. The area is often smog bound and traffic noise from highways and airports is heard in many locations within the area. The area is heavily used, and man's presence is evidenced by graffiti and carved trees scattered throughout the area. There is little opportunity for solitude, because of the limited topographic and vegetative screening. Views of State Highway 2, Angeles Crest Highway, and the Los Angeles Basin compromise the wilderness quality throughout most of the area. The steep terrain provides limited isolation, but also limits management activity. Designation of the area as wilderness would not enhance the Wilderness System or lead to better management or protection of the area or its resources, and could hamper wildfire suppression and fuels management programs which are needed to protect adjacent private and high use recreation areas.

During the development of the DEIS and Proposed Plan, and the public comment period, no additional information concerning the Arroyo Seco Area was found or received which would change our original evaluation. Therefore, in the Plan, the Arroyo Seco area remains non-wilderness. Equestrian, hiking, and where appropriate, mountain bikes will continue to use the few trails in the area. The area will remain unroaded and will be managed for non-motorized multiple resource purposes.

The Forest as a place of Peace and Quiet, and Solitude

The public comments generally show the Angeles National Forest is looked upon as an escape from the nearby urban developments. Comments show the public feels the Forest should be managed to enhance its native vegetation and wildlife and to keep it relatively free of such intense developments as mining, sanitary landfills, powerlines, high density recreation uses, target shooting and off road vehicle use. Off road vehicle users also commented on the need for trails which took them to areas away from urban developments and other users. The public comments stated a need for an accessible Forest which could be used to get away from the noise, stress, and pace of urban life, and into a natural environment where there is peace, quiet and serenity.

This topic was not discussed nor considered in the DEIS or Proposed Plan. The issue was included in the FEIS and Final Plan through the following actions and adjustments to the modified PREF alternative. Off road vehicle trails were mapped to show potential user conflicts, and to demonstrate trail systems

provided experiences and diversity the users desired. Unsafe and unmanageable target shooting areas were eliminated and replaced with better quality and better managed areas. The Arroyo Seco, Fish Canyon, and Pleasant View areas will be designated for multiple use purposes in a non-motorized classification.

Management Area Prescriptions

Both the public and the Forest staff commented that the Management Area Prescriptions were difficult to understand because of their redundancy, length, and complexity.

The format of the Management Area Prescriptions has been revised for clarity and understanding. The direction contained in the Prescriptions has not changed. The number of Prescriptions has been reduced from 22 to 12 by combining several similar Prescriptions and eliminating the redundancy from each one. In some cases, management direction was repeated for clarity and understanding. Each prescription has a specific emphasis which is outlined at the beginning of each prescription.

COMPATIBILITY WITH OTHER PUBLIC AGENCY GOALS

The goals of other public agencies, which could affect or be affected by National Forest management, were considered early in the planning process. These goals were used to develop the alternatives in the DEIS. The FEIS considered those goals plus additional agency concerns. See the FEIS Appendix F for public agencies' comments on the DEIS and proposed Plan and a discussion of consultation with others.

The public input to the Plan provided much needed information and solidified coordination efforts. Dialogue with other federal agencies, the State of California, local government, and interested publics, will not stop with the approval of the Plan. Ongoing involvement by interested parties is critical to successful implementation of this and all other forest plans. I am ready to work with interested parties and encourage them to participate in the implementation, monitoring, and updating of the Plan. As more site specific planning is done, there will be additional environmental analysis with public involvement.

With the changes made as a result of the public and agency comments, there are currently no known conflicts with the plans of other Federal, State, County or local agencies.

COMPARISON OF PREF ALTERNATIVE TO OTHERS

In the following section, I will briefly compare the various Alternatives and why I choose the modified PREF over the others in the following areas: Economics and PNV, the production of goods and services, social effects, environmental effects, and compatibility with other agencies.

Economic Efficiency and Alternatives with Higher PNV

In determining the most economically efficient alternative, the Forest Service uses an estimate of Present Net Value - the difference in discounted benefits and costs. As shown in the following, the Forest Plan has the third highest Present Net Value of any alternative considered in detail.

Alternative	Present Net Value Millions of Dollars	PNV as a Percentage of HIMKT
HIMKT	1513.9	-
HIPRO	1501.6	99.0
PREF	1426.4	94.0
RPA	1377.2	91.0
AMEN	1192.4	79.0
CURR	1113.9	74.0
LOW$	874.8	58.0

The more important concept in determining the value to society of a given course of action is net public benefit. Net public benefit includes evaluation of the levels of resource outputs, effects on the social, economic, physical and biological environment, and the ability to address public issues. This includes insuring that all benefits, monetary as well as non-monetary, are considered. From this perspective, the Plan has, in my judgment, the highest net public benefit. The Plan has one of the highest levels of prescribed fire, which provides diversity for wildlife and plant species and protection for the urban interface and accompanying on/off-Forest resource values. Prescribed fire also reduces the potential future costs of fire suppression. The Plan provides a wide spectrum of recreation uses and experiences.

Present net value is not maximized in the selected alternative due to limitations on the production of goods and services including reduced grazing, ORV and other developed recreation uses. The management area prescriptions were carefully developed to meet environmental concerns and resource production needs. Alternatives RPA, HIPRO, and HIMKT produce high levels of commodity outputs but they reduce amenity values to only minimum levels in some cases, such as reducing wildlife habitat areas. In these alternatives visual quality objectives would be lowered, range competition with wildlife would be greater, and the vegetative management program would include increased treatment by prescribed fire. The Plan attempts to modify some output goals and limit activities to a degree necessary to also achieve heightened amenity values. In this sense, the balance of commodity to amenity values is more closely achieved in the modified PREF.

Although the LOW$ Alternative may appear to be closer to existing and short range budget allocations it was not chosen due to its emphasis on closing the Forest to nearly all public use. Goals and targets may be adjusted downward in the selected alternative in the future, depending on budget allocations, but the chosen alternative allows for managing all resources for the best net public benefit. The modified PREF exceeds the other alternatives in producing the goods and services at high levels with the lower expenses. The LOW$ alternative, which provides minimum levels of goods and services for the public, allocates funding and effort to protect resources and prevent all Forest uses.

Contributions to the Production of Goods and Services

I choose to implement the modified PREF to adjust assigned output targets of the RPA (Resources Planning Act) Program. It provides a better balance of goods and services while providing the needed resource protection to insure the long term productivity of the land and its resources. Although the selected alternative does not produce the highest level of goods and services it is in my view best for both the local economy and for meeting Regional goals due to its emphasis on providing a natural environment for various recreational activities. Further, it provides high levels of vegetation treatments for fuels modification, wildlife habitat enhancement, and animal and plant species protection. While many of the alternatives such as HIPRO, HIMKT, and RPA produce higher levels of commodity products, the Angeles National Forest must provide equally important non-commodity products and services which are vital to the local society and state and national objectives. Wildlife, scenic values, and social services are best integrated into the selected alternative.

Although the Angeles National Forest provides critically needed open space and outdoor recreation opportunities, it is not a major factor in the local economy or in local employment. None of the alternatives would have a significant direct effect on the local economy.

Social Effects of the Alternatives

The primary effects of the Forest Plan are social. The Plan is balanced to insure that the large urban population in the Los Angeles area has a scenic backdrop and open areas for an escape from the pressures of living in one of the largest metropolitan areas in the nation. It maintains areas of non-traditional uses such as highly used off road vehicle areas, and target shooting, significantly decreases the amount of area open to off road vehicle trails while increasing areas of non-motorized management and reducing areas of conflict between competing uses. The mix of recreational uses and opportunities provided in the modified PREF is better than HIPRO, HIMKT, CURR, and RPA due to conflicts and reduced services to more users. Both LOW$ and AMEN close the Forest to major uses, such as off road vehicles, target shooting, and/or ski area expansion.

All alternatives provide services to the diverse ethnic population through increased public education and information services; the selected alternative provides for the most flexibility in both developed and dispersed recreation areas to respond to the changing ethnic backgrounds of Forest users. The mobile entrance stations, checkpoints, capacity limits, and educational programs provided in this alternative meet public needs in this highly used Forest.

Environmental Effects

The following summarizes some key environmental effects which are expected to occur under each alternative. The magnitude, timing, and location of effects will differ under each alternative. These factors were all considered in arriving at the selected Plan. See Chapter 4 of the FEIS for a complete discussion of the environmental effects of the various alternatives.

Any management activity, under any alternative, could produce short-term negative environmental impacts. Standards and guidelines were developed to prevent or minimize these adverse conditions. Projects and activities will be monitored, as

shown in the Monitoring Plan, Chapter V of the Plan, to ensure compliance with Forest management direction and applicable laws and regulations, and to insure appropriate direction has been established.

In all alternatives, the acres burned by prescribed fire to reduce fuel loading will have a short term impact on visual quality. There would be a moderate risk of disturbing cultural resources based on the kinds and amount of soil disturbance and the increase in dispersed and developed recreation use expected. However, in all alternatives the Forest will meet its responsibilities under the law; mitigation and protection efforts will be undertaken. In every instance wildfires would impact resources to a greater degree.

In most alternatives the vegetative diversity is improved compared to current conditions. When large acreages of vegetation are uniform, wildlife diversity is limited to those species which can live and thrive in that particular vegetative type. Prescribed fire will increase age-class diversity, which in turn, provides an increased variety of wildlife habitats. Key wildlife areas will be protected. AMEN and CURR have the least improvement in age-class diversity. RPA enhances diversity the most, while the modified PREF increases age-class diversity a moderate amount.

The prescribed fire program, which will average 19,500 acres annually during the first decade, will reduce the risk of large wildfires and the resultant damage to the watersheds, and further protect downstream values. Soil productivity and water quality will be enhanced over the long-term. AMEN and CURR have the lowest prescribed fire programs averaging 14,000 to 23,000 acres, RPA has the highest, averaging 17,000 to 31,000 acres.

All alternatives protect riparian areas. However, the Plan improves riparian areas through rehabilitation, clearer and more specific standards and guidelines, and the prescribed fire program. Fish habitat will be improved with plan implementation. Oak regeneration potential should increase as grazing use is shifted away from riparian and broadleaf vegetation areas. Silvicultural activities will promote healthy, vigorous trees in natural appearing stands.

Environmentally Preferred Alternative

I judge alternative AMEN to be the environmentally preferred alternative. It emphasizes wildlife habitat, nature oriented non-motorized recreation activities, and wilderness. It minimizes human disturbance of wildlife habitat by limiting resource developments and by prohibiting off road vehicle use and recreational target shooting. It provides the highest level of wilderness allocation (86,718 acres) of any alternative.

The fuelbreak system is held at existing levels in this alternative. Prescribed fire levels are moderate, but the emphasis is on small sized areas which benefit wildlife and vegetation age-class diversity.

I did not choose this alternative because it requires closing the Forest to two large user groups, off road vehicle users and target shooters. Alternative PREF provides for serving these groups while still placing proper emphasis on the amenity properties of the Forest. Alternative AMEN also was not desirable because no new ski development is planned, and Forest facilities would reach capacity by the year 1990. PREF better meets recreation capacity and demand, and

also has a diverse vegetative treatment program which places emphasis on protecting natural resources and reducing the wildfire and flood threat to adjacent lands.

SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR SELECTING THE FOREST LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

I selected The Plan because in my view it is the best balanced strategy for the Angeles National Forest. I judge this so because it:

- provides for improved management of all Forest activities to protect the Forest's basic soil, water and visual resources;

- increases most recreational opportunities while providing increased protection of riparian areas, wildlife habitat, and sensitive biological and geological areas; and decreases user conflicts;

- reduces risk of wildfire and increases protection of the urban interface;

- increases vegetation diversity which improves wildlife habitat for many species while maintaining water quality and long-term soil productivity;

- increases protection of riparian and broadleaf woodland areas;

- provides a program of management, development, and use which will respond to the large, changing, and diverse urban population which surrounds the Forest.

- increases use of grazing as a preferred method to manage vegetation on current fuelbreaks and selected prescribed burn and wildfire areas.

For all of these reasons, I judge the modified Alternative PREF (the Plan) to have the greatest long-term public benefit when compared to other alternatives.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION, MITIGATION, AND MONITORING

The Plan will be implemented no sooner than 30 days after the Notice of Availability of the Plan, EIS, and Record of Decision appears in the Federal Register. The time needed to fully realize the Plan will vary depending on the type of project and funding levels.

Implementation is guided by the management requirements contained in the forest direction and management area prescriptions which are found in Chapter 4 of the Plan. These management requirements were developed through an interdisciplinary team effort and contain measures necessary to mitigate or eliminate any long-term adverse effects. To the best of my knowledge, the mitigation measures included in the documents will protect the Forest from adverse environmental impacts.

Outputs in the Plan may be adjusted as a result of budget changes and/or research efforts which produce new information and technologies. Proposals to use National Forest System (NFS) lands will be reviewed for consistency with the Plan. Management direction contained in Chapter 4 of the Plan will be used to analyze any proposal involving use of NFS lands. All permits, contracts, and other instruments for occupancy and use of NFS lands must be consistent with the

management direction in Chapter 4. This is required by 16 USC 1604(i) and 36 CFR 219.10(e).

The purpose of the monitoring program is to: (1) evaluate whether Forest goals and objectives are being realized, (2) determine how closely management requirements have been followed, (3) assess the accuracy of predicted effects, costs, and outputs, and (4) assess the effectiveness of the direction and mitigating requirements in obtaining the desired and intended results. The results of monitoring will be used to measure the progress of Plan implementation. These results will also help to determine when Plan amendments or revisions are needed.

V. PLANNING RECORDS, AMENDMENTS AND REVISIONS, AND ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

PLANNING RECORDS

Planning records contain the detailed information and decisions used in developing the Plan and EIS.

All of the documentation detailing the Forest planning process is available for inspection during regular business hours at:

Forest Supervisor's Office
Angeles National Forest
701 N. Santa Anita Ave.
Arcadia, Ca. 91006
(818) 574-1613

These records are incorporated by reference into the FEIS and Plan.

AMENDMENTS AND REVISIONS

The National Forest Management Act requires revision of the Forest Plan at least every 15 years. The Plan may be revised sooner if physical conditions or demands on the land and resources have changed sufficiently to affect the overall goals or uses for the Angeles National Forest. When revising the Forest Plan, the procedures set forth in 36 CFR 219.12 will be followed; this includes scoping, an analysis of the management situation, formulation of alternatives, an estimation of effects, an evaluation of alternatives, identification of a preferred alternative, documentation in an EIS and Proposed Plan, and formal public comment before approval and implementation of the revised plan.

During the implementation of the Forest Plan, prior to its formal revision, various factors may trigger the need to change aspects of the Plan. In this event, based upon the advice and recommendation of the Forest's interdisciplinary team, the Forest Supervisor shall determine whether the proposed changes are significant or insignificant. The Regional Forester must approve any significant amendments to the Forest Plan. The determination of significance shall be made in accordance with the requirements of 16 USC 1604(f), 36 CFR 219.10(e) and (f), 36 CFR 219.12(k), and pertinent sections of the Forest Service Manual and Handbook. The determination of significance or insignificance will be documented in a decision notice that is available for public review. No changes will be

implemented prior to appropriate public notification. In the event of a significant amendment, procedures set forth in 36 CFR 219.12 will be followed. Determinations of whether proposed changes are significant or insignificant can be appealed under 36 CFR 211.18.

RIGHT TO ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

The decision documented in this record is subject to appeal in accordance with the provisions of 36 CFR 211.18. Notice of appeal must be in writing and submitted to:

Paul F. Barker
Regional Forester
Pacific Southwest Region
USDA-Forest Service
630 Sansome Street
San Francisco, CA 94111

The notice of appeal, a statement of reasons to support the appeal, and any request for oral presentation must be filed within 45 days after the date of this decision.

An appeal of my decision does not halt Forest Plan implementation. A stay of the decision must be requested. A stay may be requested at any time during the appeal period until a decision on the appeal is made by the Chief, USDA-Forest Service.

Few decisions on site-specific projects are made in this document, although a number of projects are identified. Those projects identified in various parts of the Plan or FEIS are included primarily in order to clarify discussions, illustrate a point, or to show that Forest Plan goals and objectives can be achieved.

Final decisions on site-specific projects will be made during Forest plan implementation after appropriate analysis and documentation meeting NEPA requirements. Parties dissatisfied with a specific project should appeal the site-specific decision once it is made.

Paul F Barker

PAUL F. BARKER
Regional Forester

NOV 6 1987

Date